

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 5-17, 20, and 21 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 11-17, and 20 have been amended herein.

Claims 2-4, 22, and 23 have been canceled herein.

Claims 18 and 19 were previously canceled herein. No new matter has been entered to the disclosure as the amendment clearly complies with 35 U.S.C. § 132. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended and replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing system, comprising:  
a printer including:  
a processor; ~~and~~  
a printing component in communication with said processor; and  
a filtering program stored in a memory device or firmware of said printer and  
associated with said processor so as to control printing of a file by said  
printing component based on at least one of a presence or absence of at least  
one prespecified characteristic from a packet including said file, each at least  
one prespecified characteristic independently selected from a group consisting  
of: a file type, ~~a file string~~, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file  
size, a password, time of transmission, cumulative number of files sent by a  
user, cumulative number of files sent by a user over a given time, file string,  
and time-consuming print commands.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein said at least one  
prespecified characteristic comprises at least one of an undesirable characteristic and a  
desirable characteristic.

6. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program causes said processor to prevent said printing component from printing a file of a packet having at least one said undesirable characteristic.

7. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program instructs said processor to cause said printing component to print a file of a packet having said desirable characteristic.

8. (Previously presented) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program instructs said processor to cause said printing component to print said file only if said packet lacks said undesirable characteristic and has said desirable characteristic.

9. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said undesirable characteristic comprises one of a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, and at least one prespecified command.

10. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said desirable characteristic comprises one of a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file type, and a password.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~device-specific filtering method~~ for filtering data received by a printer, comprising:  
transmitting an unfiltered printing packet comprising at least one file from a source computer,  
across a network, to a printer of said network;  
receiving said unfiltered printing packet at said printer;  
evaluating at said printer at least one prespecified characteristic of said printing packet by a  
processor ~~of~~ housed within said printer, each at least one prespecified characteristic  
independently selected from a group consisting of: a file type, a file string, a source  
computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, a password, time of transmission,  
cumulative number of files sent by a user, cumulative number of files sent by a user  
over a given time, ~~file string~~, and time-consuming print commands; and  
controlling processing of said at least one file of said printing packet by said printer based on  
said evaluating.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~device-specific filtering method~~ of claim 11,  
wherein said evaluating at least one prespecified characteristic comprises evaluating at least  
one of an undesirable characteristic and a desirable characteristic.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~device-specific filtering method~~ of claim 12,  
wherein said controlling comprises preventing processing of said at least one file of said  
printing packet by said printer if said printing packet has at least one said undesirable  
characteristic.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~device-specific filtering method~~ of claim 12,  
wherein said controlling comprises permitting processing of said at least one file of said  
printing packet by said printer if said printing packet has said desirable characteristic.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~device-specific filtering method~~ of claim 12,  
wherein said controlling comprises permitting processing of said at least one file of said  
printing packet by said printer if said printing packet lacks said undesirable characteristic and  
has said desirable characteristic.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~device-specific filtering~~ method of claim 12, wherein said evaluating comprises evaluating said printing packet for at least one said undesirable characteristic comprising at least one of a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, and at least one prespecified command.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~device-specific filtering~~ method of claim 12, wherein said evaluating comprises evaluating said printing packet for at least one said desirable characteristic comprising at least one of a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file type, and a password.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A system for filtering a file transmitted to a ~~destination device~~ printer, comprising:

a printer comprising:

a processor in communication with a network across which ~~the~~ at least one file has been transmitted; and

a filtering program associated with said processor so as to control ~~at least one of~~ transmission of a packet including at least one file to be printed to the destination device and allowing printing of said at least one file to be printed by the destination device said printer based on at least one of a presence or absence of at least one prespecified characteristic from ~~said~~ a packet including said at least one file ~~to be printed~~, each at least one prespecified characteristic independently selected from a group consisting of: a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, a password, time of transmission, cumulative number of files sent by a user, cumulative number of files sent by a user over a given time, ~~file string~~, and time-consuming print commands, ~~the~~ said packet, prior to filtering, further including instructions for a said printer, the instructions comprising:

information about a source of media onto which printing of said at least one file is to be effected, information about orientation in which said at least one file is to be printed on a media, information about whether printing is to be effected on one or two sides of a media, information about a number of copies to be printed, or information about whether multiple copies should be collated.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said filtering program is stored by at least one of a memory device and firmware.

22-23. (Canceled)